

Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 24

*Get ready folks! Riddle me this:
What isn't necessarily magic, but
extremely magical?*

Balloon twisting, of course!

One of America's foremost Balloon Sculptors, Dennis Forel, will be the featured lecturer for February's general meeting. He has been performing since 1975 and has a repertoire of over 100 different animals. He has performed all over the world and is known as the "Ambassador of Goodwheel" due to his many appearances riding his old fashioned Penny-farthing style bicycle. Mr. Forel is a member and performer at the World Famous



Magic Castle in Hollywood and co-author of "Ballooney-The Art of Air Sculpture."

Have you always been curious about the art of balloon twisting but the only thing you will admit to creating is a balloon worm?

Then it is time to be amazed as you will see Mr. Forel create life with his own breath (as he uses his own lungs to inflate his balloons. A true master of his craft, this is a no miss event.

ATTN MEMBERS

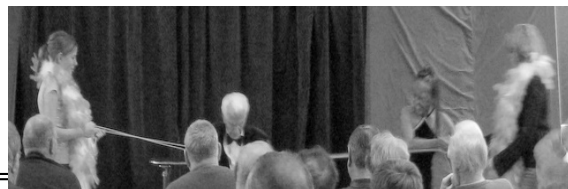
Calling out to all you budding photographers out there! Ring 313 would like one of our members to be our official photographer (to take pictures of lectures, contests, events, etc) for submissions to the Linking Ring and Legerdemain Digest. If you are interested please let one of the officers know so that we can get started right away!

PAST EVENTS:

by Philip Henderson

More than seventy members and guests attended this meeting. Mr. Brown announced the winners of the 2008 Junior Magician's contest. Fourth place was Kevin Fogg; third place was Ryan Shepard; second place was Riley Bock, and the winner of the perpetual trophy and first place was Zack White. Congratulations to these young magicians! Territorial Vice President Belinda Kaesler installed the Officers and Director's for Ring 313 for 2009. John Calvert, our lecturer for the evening, shared with us his more than seventy years as a magician touring the world and performing on stages large and small. John Calvert showed us his artistry, his passion for ethical performance of magic, and his stamina as a human being. In the lecture we were graced to see some of John Calvert's signature effects, the multiplying cigarettes, the animated hankie, and the Casper the Ghost Effect. His performance was convincing and magical, an event Ring members will remember. Calvert showed us that the performance of good magic is about the performance more than the technique. He uses simple devices to make convincing magic because his story plays big totally misdirecting the audience from his methods. Thank you John Calvert.

We look forward to Mr. Calvert's return to our Ring in 2019 at age 107. *Editor's note: The full version of this article will appear in the Linking Ring.*





The Five Lives of John Fedko

BY PHILIP HENDERSON, IBM RING 313 SECRETARY

This is an update on a story I wrote in November 2002 about the founder of IBM Ring 313, John Fedko.

He is our mentor, friend, teacher, Master Magician and this year an active member of the Board of Directors. John Fedko is a native of Northampton, Pennsylvania from Ukranian extraction. He uses Ukranian fluently and speaks German and Italian. John earned his Bachelors degree in Physics from Muhlenberg College; a Master of Science in Aeronautical and Propulsion Engineering from the University of Texas, and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from USC.

John Fedko, Family Man

John wants to be known first as a dedicated family man. He has been married to his devoted wife Catherine since 1953. They have four children, thirteen grandchildren. You see magical references in his home almost everywhere you look, awards, books, posters, and etc. but mostly you see evidence of family: Portraits, snapshots, children's playthings, and other mementos of wonderful times past with his family along with Daisy, the dog, and two cats make this a comfortable family home for the Fedko's.

John Fedko, Engineer

John would best be remembered for the engineering work he has done. John has had a long and distinguished career in the US Army Air Defense and in private industry as a scientist and inventor. He has held top-level assignments at the Pentagon and has served in important roles in the US Army developing, designing, building, testing, and deploying offensive and defensive ballistic missiles for the US government.

Colonel Fedko (retired after 20-years service) held significant posts during the Cold War era and helped bring peace to the world from his efforts. He received the Meritorious Service Medal by the President of the United States for his work.

John Fedko, Musician

John began trumpet lessons at age eight and by age 16 was first trumpet player for the Northampton Band and a soloist for the Allentown Symphony. He studied with Albertus Meyers and Harry Newhart who themselves were respectively first and second chair trumpet players for John Phillip Sousa. Graduating from high school at age 16, John formed his own band, the John Fedko Band. John ended his career as a professional musician when he married Cathy in 1953.

John Fedko, Magician

In 1972 John established the John Fedko Magic Company in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The Magic Company had a wholesale and retail operation, a performing stage, and a lecture series. All of the most outstanding performers touring America came to the John Fedko Magic Company to teach magic, learn about magic, and enjoy magic.

The wholesale operation manufactured and sold magic effects invented by John Fedko that were designed for commercial use by professional magicians. Nearly every day dozens of adult students were taught the basics of magic by Fedko and several instructors he hired. Every weekend, Fedko booked lectures, films, and magic performances. Fedko operated this company for five years until he sold it to move to California in 1977.

John Fedko, Author and Teacher

John is well known as an inventor of magical effects and methods. He prepared ten instructional videos; has written four books; and prepared sixteen original and different manuscripts of lecture notes for

magicians. The John Fedko Magic School teaches adults to become performers and he has taught magic to children (aged 8-16) for the last eight years at Saddleback College.

John still lectures at conventions and on request for magic clubs, but has spent more time with his family during the last few years. He counts among his friends some of the most successful magicians performing today. They are always happy to help him out when he needs their support for a project he is working on. In 1999, John was president of PCAM and chaired their annual convention. He is a friend to all of us at Ring 313.

Concluding Thoughts

John sees a great and prosperous future for magic in this country and the world. The recent television exposures (which he deplores) have only ended up generating more interest in magic. Magic will continue to flourish because there is honor among professional magicians. Those who have been privileged to make magic their career have always acted with respect and honor to those who paved the way for them. The best magicians share their knowledge for future generations. John sees a great future for someone who is willing to work hard to make magic a career. John didn't have a teacher. He used the Tarbell Course in Magic, Book One to get started. Most of what he does, he developed himself. He developed his own sleights, his own effects, and his own methods.

Thank you John Fedko for bringing magic into the lives of countless people: magicians, audiences, and students. You are a five-star leader in our community. I speak for many of the members of Ring 313 many of whom began their career as magicians with your instruction and guidance.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As we begin our 2009 season let me first of all thank all the members of Ring 313 for allowing me the privilege of leading our ring into the upcoming year. I hope to follow the standards set down by our previous leadership and maintain the high quality Ring 313 has come to depend on.

As the year progresses The Board of Directors and myself hope to provide Ring 313 the finest in magic lecturers as well as the opportunity to learn and challenge ourselves in the field of magic and magical entertainment.

This month for instance we will step away from traditional magic and turn our attention to the allied art of balloon twisting. We have invited a special guest, a full time professional and performer at the Magic Castle, balloon twister Dennis Forel. This will be a great opportunity to add a new "twist" to your magic or kids shows.

In future months we can look forward to learning from each other with our hands on "teach-ins". Members will have the chance to teach one or more of their favorite tricks or just take part in the learning experience in a smaller more intimate groups.

Of course we will still have our old favorites such as the raffles, the library, the Legerdemain Digest, the magic swap meet, Ring Lite, and our excellent Juniors Program. We can also look forward to member performance nights such as our annual Halloween Show and The Magic Picnic.

I am hoping this year our ring can give back to the community around us by volunteering our magical services to even more worthy causes. In the past members have given their time and talents to such causes as Orange County Fair Magic Day, The Snowball Express, and at special Christmas shows for less fortunate children at Balboa's Parade of Lights.

With this in mind if any of our members know of a deserving cause in our community please let myself or one of our officers know about it.

I am proud to be a Member of Ring 313 and look forward to all the magical experiences and friendships that our ring has to offer.

- Kevin A. Brown, President

Please send any submissions to:

Ring313.editor@gmail.com

MAGIC ON TV: MONK

Mr. Monk and the Magician

When I heard that *Monk* was to feature a magician, I was shocked! What? Magic represented on fictional television? And a real magician, no less! Although the storyline did a little reaching (come on, how many magicians do you know continue their tricks when the cops are questioning them on suspicion of murder?), Steve Valentine did a great job playing the evil magician. The backdrop was amazing as it was filmed at the world famous Magic Castle. I was a little concerned about them giving away any magic. But that was minimal at best. Overall, I felt that this episode of *Monk* (which aired 2-13 on the USA network) was tastefully done and very entertaining. If you get a chance to catch the rerun – this one's a winner!

FEDKO SCHOOL OF MAGIC

EXPERT MAGIC FOR ADULTS CLASS

Beginning 7 March 2009, John Fedko will teach 3 sessions of professional magic at Santiago Canyon College in Orange. Each session is on a Saturday from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. Many of the magic effects and routines are new and have not been taught previously by John. To register, call the college at (714) 628-4960. **THE FEE IS \$39**

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Legerdemain Digest



Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at Ring313.editor@gmail.com

Magic Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District building, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.
Directions and a map are available at www.Ring313.org.

Saturday, February 21	2 PM	Ring 313 Juniors Meeting at Annie & Kent's, Santa Ana
Tuesday, February 24	7 PM	Ring 313 <u>Regular Meeting</u> , lecture by Dennis Forel
Tuesday, March 10	7 PM	Ring 313 Lite Gathering at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Saturday, March 14	2 PM	Ring 313 Juniors Meeting at Annie & Kent's, Santa Ana
Tuesday, March 31	7 PM	Ring 313 <u>Regular Meeting</u>
Tuesday, April 14	7 PM	Ring 313 Lite Gathering at Knowlwood's, Irvine

Your Ring 313 Officers and Board Members

Kevin Brown -President- (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Kent Kwan** - Vice President (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Philip Henderson**-Secretary (xxx)xxx-xxxx; **Gary Meier**- Treasurer (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Todd Reis** - Member at Large (xxx) xxx-xxxx;and **John Fedko** (xxx) xxx-xxxx, **Annie Young**- Juniors and Newsletter Editor (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **Don Hill**-Webmaster (xxx) xxx-xxxx; **David Peltier**—Raffle Coordinator (xxx) xxx-xxxx, **Catherine Fedko** - Librarian (xxx) xxx-xxxx